MYRMECIA

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THE COVER

Greg Slevin won the insect illustration competition at the Annual Meeting in Darwin with the picture on our cover. Can you identify the beetle?

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NOTICE

Statements made in *Myrmecia* do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Entomological Society. Items printed herein should not be reproduced without permission of the author of the material.

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

NB the Editor will be in Europe for June & July. Material for publication in our August 2001 issue should be sent to Tish Silberbauer at: lsilberb@metz.une.edu.au
before **Friday 22 July 2001**.

EDITORIAL

The recent death at the age of 50 of our friend and colleague, Ebbe Nielsen, leaves a substantial gap in Australian entomology. Settling in Australia at the end of 1982, Ebbe had in 20 years come to hold a dominant position in our profession. Indeed, at times, some members of the Society found him too dominant. Certainly, Ebbe, as the master of the art of 'positive spin' would surely give his great grin at the thought that his passing represents a challenge and an opportunity to us as much as a loss. He provided a basis and a lead in a variety of areas; the rest of the profession must now develop those initiatives. But honchos, as they are called in North America, come and go. Each successive one makes his or her reputation by building on (or negating – it depends on your point of view) the work of their predecessor. Such activities generally have an essentially ephemeral significance. Ebbe left his stamp on the careers of many entomologists in Australia, but his real memorial is his contribution to our knowledge of Australian insects. In field and lab, he was an excellent entomologist, and his publications on Lepidoptera provide a secure foundation for future studies. Personally, much of my current personal and professional happiness I owe to Ebbe. We first met in the late 1970's when he visited London – ostensibly to study moths in museums but equally to enjoy the London jazz scene. Attempts to persuade him to join our team of Lepidoptera workers at the British Museum failed. He preferred the fresh canvas offered by Australian society, and he painted that canvas in rich and varied colours. In Canberra on 3rd April, a memorial celebration of his life was a solemn and sombre occasion attended by a very large number of friends. Curiously, however, it had little of the Ebbe that I had known. Roses, lilies and classical music dominated, whereas Ebbe loved Banksias and Grevilleas, Brubeck and NHOP. I shall miss the gleam of appreciation in his eye across the dining table as the strains of "Take Five" filtered from the next room – and I will also miss the flash in his eye when I dared to suggest that testing specific hypotheses was a more effective use of research funding than listing the data on haphazardly collected museum specimens. Ebbe lived life to the full. But when Lachesis spins her thread so thick,

she risks spinning it short. Australian entomology will not be the same without Ebbe to spur and provoke us, but we must ensure that some suitable entomological phoenix is created from the ashes of such a productive life.

And that brings me to the two responses printed in this issue to my daring to question the purpose of the Australian Entomological Society. Ray Kumar gives an historical view. However, as I have already pointed out to him, the real problem is that some of Australia's best young biologists working on insects do not find a society of entomologists relevant to their own intellectual and career development. And any suggestion of altruism, the obligation of support that as professionals we owe to each other, certainly breaks no ice with some well-established entomologists. Glynn Maynard joins this discussion, asking more positively what we can do as a Society that might make us more relevant to the rest of society.

LAM

Ebbe Schmidt Nielsen

7 June 1950 – 6 March 2001.

This obituary was prepared by Ted Edwards of ANIC, with the help of N.P. Kristensen, O. Karsholt, Marianne Horak, Judy West, Paul Reekie, Joanne Daly, Ian Common, Max Whitten, Paul Wellings, Andrew Calder, Jo Cardale, Len Willan, Gail Willan, Vanna Rangsi and Anne Grubb.

Ebbe spent his childhood in central Jutland, Denmark, near the small town of Rye where his parents, Niels and "Stine", owned a farm producing barley, rye, vegetables, flowers, strawberries and later Christmas trees and which overlooked Lake Mossø in one of the more scenic parts of Jutland. Here, with his younger brother Bent, he came to know the local plants, insects, birds and fish. The Nielsen parents believed in supporting the interests of their children, a trait greatly appreciated by Ebbe in later life and one he successfully adopted in energetically supporting the projects of his close colleagues.

He studied zoology at the University of Århus in Jutland from 1971 to 1974 and in 1976 completed his MSc at the University of Copenhagen on the Neuroptera and Lepidoptera fauna in a beech forest near Rønde in eastern Jutland (unfortunately only the Neuroptera section was published). While at university he was first associated with the Natural History Museum in Århus and subsequently with the Zoological Museum in Copenhagen. In 1974, with his long-time friend Ole Karsholt (an amateur Lepidopterist, who subsequently became assistant curator in the Copenhagen Museum), he described a new gelechiid moth from the sand dunes of northern Jutland and in 1975 they compiled a checklist of the Danish Lepidoptera. In 1976 he commenced his PhD at the University of Copenhagen under the supervision of Prof. Niels Peder Kristensen, a renowned insect morphologist, who became Ebbe's mentor and close friend. His subject was nomenclatural, systematic and phylogenetic studies in the Incurvariina (a primitive group of moths). Ebbe completed a detailed monograph of the Elachistidae of Fennoscandia and Denmark, with E. Traugott-Olsen as coauthor, which was published in 1977. In 1978-79 Ebbe, as chief research scientist and expedition secretary, participated in the Danish Scientific Expedition to Patagonia and Chile for six months. Important outcomes of the expedition were the elucidation of the life cycle of *Heterobathmia*, leading to the recognition that these moths represent one of the most basal clades of the Lepidoptera, the discovery of South American Micropterigidae and the discovery of the first southern-hemisphere prodoxid. Ebbe completed his PhD in 1980 and chose the Lepidoptera chapter in *Insects of Australia* as one of the publications of which he had to demonstrate a thorough familiarity in his doctoral interview.

Ebbe was a postdoctoral fellow with the Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen from 1980 – 1982. This was an extremely productive period for him with the publication of numerous contributions to the higher classification of the Lepidoptera and revisions of some of the most primitive families. A monograph on the South American Ghost Moths, coauthored with Gaden Robinson, was published in 1983. In March 1981, Ebbe visited the ANIC at the invitation of Ian Common to study the Australian Incurvariidae and while in Canberra first met Marianne Horak, also on a visit, and with whom he developed a long-term relationship. Both decided that Australia would be a good place to work and live. On Ian Common's retirement the following year, Ebbe successfully applied for the position of Curator of Lepidoptera and commenced duty at CSIRO on 3 December 1982.

Ebbe threw himself into studies of the hepialid genus *Fraus*. Two extended and successful field trips to WA provided material for the first volume of the series *Monographs on Australian Lepidoptera*. The *Fraus* monograph, coauthored with N.P. Kristensen, has been used throughout the world and the detailed structural analysis of the genus serves as

Ebbe – The Entomologist

a model for similar studies. The second volume, coauthored with Gaden Robinson, was a detailed generic review of the Australian Tineidae. It pioneered in Lepidoptera studies the concept of a generic revision which established a generic framework but was not distracted by the details of large numbers of species. This facilitated work on speciose families with few previously reliable divisions. Detailed papers established the presence in Australia of the otherwise South American Palaephatidae, the Eriocottidae and the description of *Nemotyla oribates*, later recognised as the only Australian member of the Symmocidae. Two additional families, well known overseas, are now known from Australia. Ebbe encouraged the work that led to the discovery of these families but their presence is currently unpublished. Under Ebbe's leadership the Lepidoptera unit was mobilised for the *Checklist of the Lepidoptera of Australia*. This project took ten years using whatever time was available from other projects but has transformed Lepidoptera work in Australia. This work cleared the grey mist over what is Australian, what has been described, and brought an end to the endless questions of who was the author and how do you spell the name. The project eventually involved 14 authors all encouraged, guided and supported by Ebbe's insight and enthusiasm. Another project which was close to Ebbe's heart and which he completed was the revision, with N.P. Kristensen, of the Australian primitive family Lophocoronidae. Ebbe encouraged, often initiated, and backed to the hilt the projects of others in the unit, including Ian Common's volumes on the Oecophoridae, Michael Braby's butterfly book and Marcus Matthew's book on the Heliothinae. Ebbe encouraged the work of prominent overseas lepidopterists on the Australian fauna and also enlisted the aid of world specialists in curating the ANIC holdings. His own contribution was immense with some 94 significant publications at the time of his death.

Ebbe became Convener (1986) and then Programme Leader of the ANIC in 1990. He dedicated the devotion and enthusiasm that he had for Lepidoptera to all the ANIC. Under his leadership many books, papers and CD roms were produced. The ANIC became probably the most productive small insect systematics group in the world. He was instrumental in establishing the Conference of the Heads of Australian Entomological Collections (CHAEC) which meets periodically to discuss mutual problems, coordination and cooperation. He established the ANIC Board and ANIC Fund so that

funding of the collection, endowments and book sales became possible. He developed very close ties with CSIRO Publishing to facilitate the publication of the mounting output of the ANIC and became consultant, adviser and then in 1996 a member of the Board. With CSIRO Publishing he established the *Monographs on Invertebrate Taxonomy* series and worked hard for the founding of the journal *Invertebrate Taxonomy*. He believed in developing close relations with funding bodies, particularly with ABRS so that both the ANIC and the funding body could understand each other's aims. He negotiated long and hard for funding for many of the projects that the ANIC became involved in, while maintaining a strict overview so that projects were worthwhile in terms of the ANIC's aims. Most notably he obtained funds for the Zoological Catalogue Series of ABRS, research grants from ABRS, and funding for field work for the WEBS (Wilderness Ecosystems Baseline Studies) in Tas., CYPLUS (Cape York Peninsula Land Use Survey) and CRC-TREM (CRC for Tropical Rainforest Ecology and Management) in Qld. Ebbe also organised the McIlwraith Range survey in Qld and the surveys of Brookfield Conservation Park and Bookmark Biosphere Reserve in South Australia. He negotiated the endowment by Dr E.C. Zimmerman of a position for the study of the systematics of weevils and established the Insect Identification and Advice Service, based partly on ACT Government funding, to take some of the huge load of identifications from the specialists in the ANIC. Ebbe also established the soil biology and conservation units in the Natural Resources and Biodiversity programme.

The revolution in electronic communication created opportunities that were grasped by Ebbe who initiated a project to database priority parts of the collection. He fully realised the vast amount of information held in the ANIC but he also recognised that the information required specialist interpretation. A CD-rom on insects was developed and funding was obtained to develop a computerised collection maintenance and data management system released as Biolink. He attempted to graft this to the ANIC without, as far as possible, undermining the essential data acquisition role of systematics.

Science is international and Ebbe clearly saw ANIC as part of a global network. He co-organised the IX Meeting of the Willi Hennig Society in Canberra in 1990. He helped establish the Major Systematic Entomology Facility group representing the major world collections. Ebbe was a member of the council for International Congresses of Entomology. Australia was represented by him at the OECD Megascience Forum Working Group on Biological Informatics, where it was hoped that some of the astronomical sums spent on astronomy could be used for biological projects of more relevance to ordinary people. He was closely involved with activities under the International Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Subsidiary Body on Science and Technology and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and played a pivotal role in the Australian Clearing-House Mechanism. He had a vital role in the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and placed Australia in a good position to bid for the secretariat to be established here. He was involved with the Global Butterfly Information System (GloBIS) and was working to establish an agreed family level classification as a foundation for databasing species level information. Ebbe was a member of some 16 scientific societies and was an office bearer for many international societies, conferences, committees, review groups, and boards.

Ebbe's contribution was recognised by many organisations. He received the Karl Jordan Medal in 1990 from the Lepidopterists' Society for achievements in the study of Lepidoptera. In the same year the David Rivett Medal was awarded to him by CSIRO for outstanding research on systematics and for the unique synergism he generated in this field. In 1992 he was awarded the Ian Mackerras Medal by the Australian Entomological Society for his research on the Australian moth fauna. He was awarded several honorary memberships and fellowships of societies, perhaps most notably becoming Foreign Associate of the U.S. National Academy of Science in 1997 and a Foreign Fellow of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters in 1998.

Ebbe believed in the ANIC; he believed in the value of what it did. He believed that because the ANIC was so important funds could be obtained. His hard work, enthusiasm and optimism carried the ANIC through some bad times. Inevitably some funds fell through, some never eventuated, and some took too long to appear. Inevitably many projects took longer than anticipated, a problem universal in creative work since before Samuel Johnson's time. This left Ebbe's policy of support, encouragement and hope that something would turn up open to the criticism of those who held retreat and retrench policies. This caused Ebbe much stress. He also knew that many outstanding

achievements in science or the arts had this problem but in the long term the value of the achievements was recognised. That the ANIC has these funding problems illustrates that there are still few in science policy who realise the crucial role the ANIC must play in any rational biodiversity assessments in Australia. Ebbe's optimism, faith and support carried many people along with him and gave them hope of better times ahead. He remained faithful to the ANIC and CSIRO in spite of many offers of well-funded prestigious positions overseas.

Working with Ebbe was a wonderful privilege. His encouragement and support were unlimited, his deep understanding of systematics meant that he could represent the ANIC clearly, forcefully and enthusiastically. He had great vision and clearly saw the possible paths ahead and worked towards reasoned, long-term goals. He had immense energy and dedication and, whether in a conference or in the field, Ebbe achieved amazing outcomes. In dealing with people in other disciplines he was immensely patient and persuasive. He had the ability to evaluate a person's true worth in science irrespective of formal qualifications. Ebbe was very generous and he always ensured that work, insights and publications were fully attributed to those who did the work. He never cited himself as the expert when merely passing on advice from someone else. Many of his publications were with coauthors and all would happily collaborate again. The important contribution made by non-professionals was fully recognised by Ebbe who did much to encourage amateur entomologists.

But Ebbe's life was not all work. He enjoyed music, fishing and orienteering. He regularly went running around his suburb every morning. He was friendly, outgoing, hospitable and generous. Ebbe loved having friends and colleagues for meals and loved cooking new and interesting things. His friends and colleagues became his family. He even had time for friends' children, often bringing back items from overseas. Few children of ANIC parents do not have Ebbe's chocolate mousse recipe. Many will remember his 50th birthday celebrations and will treasure the memories of that occasion that we were fortunate to have together. No other friend and colleague could have been taken from us who will be so sorely missed.

Ted Edwards

AES SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The Society's major expenses are the production of the Journal and Myrmecia and our membership of FASTS. All of these items attract GST and we are not able to absorb the taxation costs. Also the income and expenses of hosting the ICE in 2004 will have their GST elements pass through the Society's accounts. Reluctantly, the core Executive has decided that there is no option but to register the Society for GST, and this means that it will have to be added to subscriptions. GST will apply to the Society from 1 July 2001 and, because we operate on a calendar subscription year, the charge in 2001 will be 5%. In future years it will be the full 10%. Subscription rates, including GST, for the year 2001 will be: Full Member - $68.25; Student or Retired Member - $34.15; Joint Membership - $73.50. Those members who have not paid their subscriptions by 30 June 2001 will be sent a reminder, in the format of a Tax Invoice, at the GST inclusive rates quoted above.

Ian Endersby
Hon. Treasurer

Core Executive Meeting #390

6 March 2001.

A letter of sympathy was sent to the Waterhouse family on the death of AES Life Member Douglas Waterhouse and an appreciative reply was received from his wife.

Address labels and *Myrmecia* were supplied on time to Blackwell Science but there was a delay in distribution of the first issue of AJE for 2001.

The schedule of AGM and Conference location is usually discussed at the council meeting prior to the AGM. The current proposed schedule is 2002, WA; 2003 Melbourne (joint meeting with NZ Society) and 2004, Brisbane in conjunction with ICE.

Treasurer indicated that accounts for 1999 have been received from the previous Treasurer and forwarded to the Auditor. 470 subscription payments have been received to date for 2001. The early payment discount cost the Society about $1000 and the retired/student rate will cost the Society about $3300. It is recommended that the Society apply for GST and charge it from 1st July 2001.

International Congress of Entomology: 12 tenders for Principal Conference Organiser were received, and **Carillon** was appointed. Sources of funding for pre-congress expenses are being identified. CSIRO are checking contracts. The Vice President was given authority to ratify the organisational structure and authorise expenditure with the limit of $10,000 which has been allocated for the ICE.

Blackwell Science's contract renegotiation proposal will be accepted, but the Society will foreshadow

its intention to review progress after the second year, with a view to planning ahead for the next round of negotiation and the calling for tenders.

New Members
John La Salle, CSIRO Entomology (Hymenoptera, Systematics)
John Moulden, Agriculture Western Australia
Denis L Anderson, CSIRO Entomology (Bee Pathologist)
Melinda McNaught, Qld Forestry Research Institute (PhD student)
Maqsood Iqbal, Dept of Horticulture & Plant Sciences, UWS Hawkesbury (PhD student)
Michael Lang, Forestry Tasmania
Nita Ramsden, Forestry Tasmania
Yvonne Parsons, Dept of Genetics, La Trobe University

Resignations: Catherine Boros; Helen Brookes; Matthew Cahill; Craig Eisemann; Penelope Greenslade; Lynda Hamilton; Susan Harrington; Nicholas Jonsson; Valerie Kempster; Roger Laughlin; Barry Longstaff; Z. Mazanec; David McCorquodale; Wendy Milne; John Mugford; Gillian Napier; David Rentz; Martin Rice; Leslie Robertson; David Shaw; Ching Sing Li; Mark Smith; Allan Spessa.
Lost Member: Weerawan Amornsak

Officers & Regional Councillors

Nominations for election or re-election of Officers and Regional Councillors at the Society's 32nd AGM in September 2001 should be made on the form provided and should be sent to the Secretary to arrive no later than Wednesday 22nd August 2001.

OFFICERS
The President of the Society has held office for one annual term and is eligible for re-election for one further annual term. The News Bulletin Editor has held office for two annual terms and is eligible for re-election. The position of Public Officer will fall vacant at the 32nd AGM. The Public Officer must be a resident of the Australian Capital Territory. All other officers of the Society (Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chief Editor) have held office for one annual term and will be eligible for re-election after their second annual term.
President: Andy Austin
News Bulletin Editor: Laurence Mound
Public Officer: Michael Lenz

AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED

Nomination of Officer or Councillor

I nominate .....

For election to the office of

.....

Name of nominator .....

Signature .....

Date .....

I second this nomination

Name of seconder .....

Signature .....

Date .....

I accept this nomination*

Signature .....

Date .....

*The nominee is requested to attach a typed statement not exceeding 300 words, which includes the following: professional qualifications, address, institution, position held, fields of entomological interest, previous offices or appointments held in the Society; any other information which may be of assistance to members.

(A photocopy of this form may be used)

Please send all nominations to Nancy Endersby, DNRE, Private Bag 15, SCORESBY BUSINESS CENTRE VIC 3176 before Wednesday 22nd August 2001.

REGIONAL COUNCILLORS
Regional Councillors are eligible for re-election for up to three years only. All incumbent Regional Councillors are eligible for re-election this year, their years of service at 32nd AGM Sep-01 indicated in parentheses
Qld: Kylie Anderson (2); Brad Scholz (2); Heather Proctor (1)
Tas.: Geoff Allen (2)
NSW: Robert Spooner-Hart (2); Murray Fletcher (2); Robin Gunning (1)
ACT: Martin Steinbauer (2); Terry Bowditch (2)
Victoria: Catherine Mansfield (1); Ross Field (1)
SA: John Jennings (2)
WA: Owain Edwards (2)
NT: Martin Shivas (2)
REPRESENTATIVE COUNCILLORS
(Representative councillors are elected by the affiliated societies. There is no restriction on term served in this capacity).
Entomological Society of NSW: Alan Clift
Entomological Society of Queensland: Judith King
Entomological Society of Victoria: Ian Endersby (acting)

22nd International Congress of Entomology

As most entomologists will now be aware, Australia was successful in its bid to host the 22nd International Congress of Entomology (ICE) in 2004. The AES is the official hosting organization and this column is intended to keep members of the Society up to date with ICE developments. Please get in the habit of reading this column so that when international colleagues ask about the congress, you'll be able to keep them informed. The success of the congress will depend very largely on the enthusiasm of the entire Australian entomological community. Take every opportunity you can get to promote ICE 2004.
Planning for the congress is already well advanced. The different planning committees (Scientific, Finance, Social and Media & Promotions) held meetings in January and February to elect their chairs and prioritize goals. The first full meeting of the executive was attended by Myron Zalucki (Chair), Andy Austin (President AES), Peter Ridland (Vice-President AES), Jim Cullen (Immediate Past President AES), Ashley Gordon (Professional Conference Organiser), John LaSalle (Chair, Scientific Committee), Max Whitten (Chair, Finance Committee), Margaret Schneider (Chair, Social Committee) and Tony Clarke (Chair, M&P Committee). Rachael McFadyen also attended the executive meeting in an advisory role.

Venue and date
The Convention Centre on Brisbane's South Bank has been booked from Sunday 15th August to Saturday 21st August, 2004. Up to 16 halls of various sizes will be available for concurrent sessions, plus two boardrooms for smaller executive meetings, etc.

Meeting Schedule
The meeting will open on the Sunday afternoon with registration and welcoming drinks. The official opening will be on the Monday morning and scientific sessions will continue through until the following Saturday afternoon. The opening speech will be on Monday morning and the closing speech last thing Saturday afternoon. There will be 10 plenary lectures during which no concurrent sessions will run. Thursday afternoon will be given over entirely to a session for public awareness and extension.

Accommodation
Carillon, the Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) has already begun making bulk conference bookings in Brisbane 3-5 star motels.

Conference theme
The theme for the conference is "Entomology-Strength in Diversity".

Logo
The logo is still under design, but will be based upon a stylized honey-pot ant.

Insect Illustration Competition

Greg Slevin, who won the insect illustration competition at our Darwin meeting, wrote to Myrmecia as follows. Drawing the beetle is a compulsory component of our course. We are required to accurately depict both in black and white and in colour, preferably 2 different species of insect (or the same insect but different views). Although most people in the class would agree that the entomology contest is fairly intense, it is also great practice for honing one's skills in observation and technique. This is my second attempt, and I made sure to avoid the same mistakes I committed last time, such as disproportion and colour variance. It also helps to have someone overseeing this kind of work like our supervisor who knows insects. I look forward to trying the open section of the competition next year, but am flattered that the Society chose my bug for the cover of Myrmecia.

AES 32nd AGM and Scientific Conference

The Organising committee takes pleasure in announcing that the 32nd AGM and Conference will be held at the **Manly Pacific Parkroyal**, Manly, 15 minutes ferry ride from Sydney CBD. Manly is one of Sydney's tourist spots, with beach and harbour views, numerous restaurants and a range of accommodation from budget to 5 stars. For further details see: www.uws.edu.au/chaps/aesc/

AGM Provisional Agenda

Opening and General Announcements
Announcements of Proxies and Apologies
Deaths of members recorded since the 31st AGM
Minutes of the 31st AGM
Business Arising out of the Minutes of the 31st AGM
Executive Annual Report, including Reports of Vice-President, Treasurer, Chief Editor and News Bulletin Editor
Report of the Conservation Committee
Competitions and Awards
Business arising from Council
Announcements of Office Bearers and Councillors for 2001-2002
Appointment of Auditor
Report of the Organising Committee, 32nd AGM and Scientific Conference
Report of the Organising Committee, 33rd AGM and Scientific Conference
Other Business

Scientific Conference

The theme will be **Insects and the Environment**, and **Symposia** will include:
Education, training & extension;
Biodiversity & conservation;
Biological control;
Insects in the urban environment;
Insects & human health;
Quarantine, trade & exotic incursions;
Taxonomy & general biology;
Ecology & behaviour;
Pest management & IPM;
Social insects;
GMOs and insects.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Society is seeking expressions of interest for scientific presentations. Abstracts should be submitted to the Conference Secretariat by Friday 20 July, either by email or on a clearly labelled IBM-PC formatted disk in Word 98. Two hard copies are also required on A4 paper. A completed registration form and full payment of registration fees should accompany abstracts. Acceptance of oral and poster presentations will be notified by Friday 10 August, 2001.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

Sunday 23 September: Registration from 5.00pm; Welcome Reception 6.00-9.00pm.
Monday 24 September: Registration (from 8.00am), Opening Ceremony, Plenary Sessions.
Tuesday 25 September: Full day Plenary sessions.
Wednesday 26 September: Optional Tours; Full day to Blue Mountains; Half day to Olympic Park & Darling Harbour; Conference Dinner (evening).
Thursday 27 September: Full day Plenary Sessions.
Friday 28 September: Half day Plenary Session; Closing Ceremony

REGISTRATION METHODS:

Complete and submit the form on page 32:
access the conference website and complete the on-line registration form;
print that registration form and fax to +61 2 45 701-520, or
contact the Conference Secretariat to receive a copy of the form via fax.
Fees: Early Bird (up to 20/7/01) - A$390; Full - A$430; Day - A$150; Student/Concession - A$150; all include complimentary Welcome Reception.
Conference Dinner/Harbour Cruise - A$70; Full Day Tour to Blue Mtns - A$100; Half Day Tour to Olympic Park/Darling Harbour - A$60.
Conference T-Shirt - A$20.00 each.
Registration includes: Attendance at all Conference sessions; Conference kit, including satchel and program booklet; morning/afternoon teas and lunch each day as indicated on the program; one ticket to the Welcome Reception.
Day Registration includes: Attendance for one day; morning/afternoon tea and lunch that day.
Registration will not be confirmed until payment is received.

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Alison Campbell, Linkwest Commercial Services, PO Box 415, RICHMOND, NSW 2753.
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Email: a.campbell@uws.edu.au

AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY – SHOULD IT EXIST?

The above question, raised in Vol. 37(1), February, 2001 issue of MYRMECIA, was debated at length in 1963/1964. Foundation members would recall that there was a sustained opposition from a section of the entomological community to the establishment

Peter Ridland signs the ICE contract at Brisbane

of an Australia-wide Society. But in the end the farsightedness of the established entomologists such as Doug Waterhouse, Ian Mackerras, A. Brimblecome, Bruce Champ, E.N. Marks, Elizabeth Exley and many others including the rank and file, such as myself, carried the day. Considering numerous entomological problems faced by Australian Agriculture and Public Health, no sane person would say that entomology is not relevant to Australia and a non-profit making organization such as Australian Entomological Society, independent of any government funding is a burden on the tax payer and should not exist.

Actually in every society there is always a vocal micro-minority doing its best to push inimical actions down the throats of the silent majority. A good example in support is the Royal Entomological Society of London. In early 1980s a group of fellows gave notice to the Registrar of the Society that at the next meeting they wanted to move: 1) to change the name of the society to Entomological Society of London, and 2) to prohibit the Society fellows from writing F.R.E.S. after their names. On the appointed day the silent majority appeared in strength. It was moved by a natural history book seller, Mr E.W. Classey, that the said proposals be rejected. Indeed so strong were the feelings of fellows in rejecting the motions that the authors of the proposals made a hasty exit. I am pretty certain that the same would apply to Australian Entomological Society.

The evolution of our News Bulletin from the few cyclostyled pages of 1963 to the present day MYRMECIA and from the old Journal of Entomological Society of Queensland to the modern Journal of the Australian Entomological Society is something for us to be proud of. If the Society were irrelevant it would, like the American Mosquito Society, have dissolved itself by now. Actually Biologists who publish extensively on biodiversity and do ecological work, do not realise that they would find it extremely difficult even to obtain names for their specimens if the dictum of management/ economic rationalism which is badly strangling the desperately needed entomological work in Africa & PNG, gets a stronger foothold in Australia. On the other hand several American entomologists have mentioned to me that the contents of Myrmecia have their own flavour. You can easily know who is doing what in entomology in Australia. In USA they have to wait for the paper/poster presentation volume of their AGM to find out such valuable information.

Australian Entomological Society, by its various activities such as serving as a communication medium through its publications, conservation committee, etc makes long-term relevant contributions to the society we live in. It promotes scholarship and learning which distinguishes

civilized from less civilized societies. Of course people would complain that we could do better. I do, for example, mildly moan that the abolition of the Department of Entomology at the University of Queensland brought no protests or representations from the Australian Entomological Society. I, for my own part as a former graduate of the department, protested and noted down an undertaking from the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. John Hay that the chair of Entomology would be filled in 2002. But now with the merger of Zoology/Entomology with Botany four positions would be lost in the restructuring process. It is time that Australian Entomological Society made a representation to the Vice-Chancellor to see that entomological positions of Gordh/Yeates, etc. are not lost. But we also need to realise that the officers of our society are not full time staff and need our advise and support. Indeed unlike the Royal Ent. Soc. of Lond. and American Ent. Soc., Maryland, we don't even have a permanent secretariat.

This brings me to the observation that the Journal of Australian Entomological Society could not survive without the financial input of her members. A case in point is Insect Science and Its Applications, a journal of the African Association of Insect Scientists. The journal was brought out by Pergamon Press for a few years and then returned to the Association as the company was not making money because there was hardly any subscription base from the Association members. Finally let me come to the absurdity of branch office economy in guise of streamlining, rationalization, relevance and maximization of profit, etc. Leaders, donors and less informed intelligentsia have often asked me "do we really need University education to succeed in life?" Is all the public expenditure on higher education justified and necessary? After all, the new information economy places a premium on technical skills and appears to downplay the need for a University degree. Indeed Bill Gates, Steve Jobs and a large number of successful people around the globe never went to a University or completed college education. Money pays the bills and buys goods and services and this is what we should go after. The question to be asked here is do we really value our institutions of scholarship and learning? Are we serious in harnessing science and technology for the welfare of *Homo sapiens*? If the answer is yes – then we would need to strengthen such institutions, rather than thinking of getting rid of them, no matter what the vocal micro-minority says. The solutions to entomological problems would have to be developed locally and cannot be bought off the shelves of multinationals which dazzle the less critical minds.

RAY KUMAR
Overseas Correspondent (PNG)

Objectives of the AES

I have been pondering the question raised in February's editorial – why does the Australian Entomological Society exist?

At the last AES conference I was given the job of Promotions Officer (a job that hasn't been filled for a significant amount of time). I asked what am I to promote, and was told 'the Australian Entomological Society'. But being somewhat perverse, I asked what does the Society do, and why does it exist? The only two consistent answers from my colleagues were: for the journal, and for the annual conference – although some people expressed a pious hope that the Society might promote entomological science. This induced me to observe, I hope provocatively that, since the Journal is promoted by Blackwell Scientific, and our Conferences by the conference organisers, there is not much for me to 'promote'. As a group, we seem to do little beyond these two activities.

I was heartened to see the Queensland Entomological Society doing something a little different. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has invited Members of that Society to collect insects at the Conondale National Park, with the QNPWS providing accommodation and collating any data collected. The notice reads "Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service would like to extend an invitation to the Entomological Society members for an open weekend of collecting in Conondale National Park. Enjoy guest speakers at night...conduct a preliminary inventory of the invertebrates of the park...make use of collective skills..."

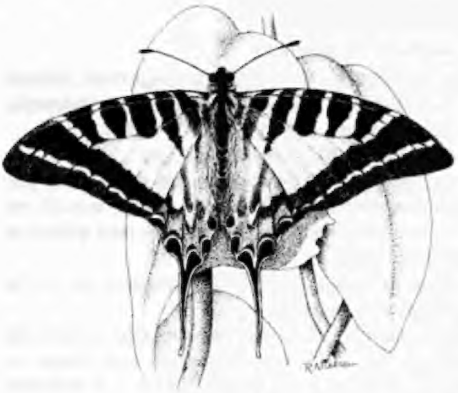
Recently the Society has had some activity over the question of State and National insects. This is a worthwhile activity, but involves few of our members. Certainly we all hope that it will contribute to an awareness of insects, if not to the promotion of Entomology as a Science. But are there broader ways in which we can promote AES as a resource? Or are the rising generations of professional entomologists interested solely in earning their daily bread?

One possibility might be to take a leaf out of the Queenslanders book. Could we offer, corporately, to undertake non-profit surveys in particular areas that have an important profile, ecologically or politically? This might have problems, because we would not want to take work away from employed entomologists. But there is a large amount of work

needed on the Australian fauna, much of which is unlikely to receive professional funding. In many areas we could, as a Society, have a lasting and useful impact, raise our profile politically, and enthuse many existing members.

Please, if any of you have ideas or comments – let me know or write a letter to Myrmecia editor. Should we have a plan for the future of the Society, a strategy for developing our involvement, or are we just going to lurch forward?

Glynn Maynard
AES Promotions Officer



ABRS & Environment Australia News

The butterfly catches your eye! And heralds the fact that the *Zoological Catalogue of Australia, Vol. 31.6, Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea, Papilionoidea* will be available in mid May. Compiled at ANIC by Ted Edwards, Judy Newland and Leane Regan, this volume compliments the recent Braby volumes on butterflies of Australia. As well as the well-researched nomenclatural and type data, and extensive historical and bibliographic information, this *Zoological Catalogue* provides a comprehensive listing of larval food plants that will be invaluable to people interested in biology, ecology and conservation of butterflies.

Just a plug here, too, for Environment Australia's *Action Plan for Australian Butterflies*. Prepared by Don Sands, Tim New and Geoff Clark, the Draft Action Plan is presently out for review.

Other ABRS publication news of interest to entomologists is that both the first of the *Flora of Australia* Acacia volumes and the amazingly useful CD-ROM LucID key 'Wattle', are now with the publisher. The latter should give you hours of fun and challenge in identifying *Acacia* species from around Australia.

A change to the financial year (rather than calendar year) has delayed ABRS' annual call for new grant requests until late September or early October this year. Successful new grants will then begin in June 2002.

Alice Wells

Fire Ants invade Australia

Solenopsis invicta was detected in Brisbane in January. Originally from South America, this species was introduced to the USA during the 1930s where it has become a major pest in the southern States. These ants are unusually aggressive, readily stinging any person or animal that disturbs them in some way. As a result they can become a severe environmental hazard – try picnicking near a nest, or picking up a pot plant or wooden pallet they are occupying – they can be serious pests to crop production, and above all they have the potential to dominate soil ecology across a large part of Australia. This invasion is thus potentially of greater importance than the cane toad. Currently, nests are being found mainly in disturbed, open, areas, including lawns, roadsides and disused cropland. But in the USA fire ants have been associated with damage to oil seeds, and the large number of aggressive stinging individuals can cause problems for plant cultivators. Biologically this is one of the ant species pre-adapted to be an ecological invader. Some colonies may have a single queen, but multiple egg-laying queens in a nest are usual, with such nests involving up to 300,000 workers. These workers vary greatly in size, 2 – 6 mm, but apparently with no size-groupings or soldiers. Currently the infestation is concentrated around the south eastern suburbs of Brisbane, but colonies are very easily moved long distances in potted plants, and single gravid females can hitch rides on vehicles. For further information see: www.dpi.qld.gov.au/health/3125.html. LAM

Australian Insects Common Names (AICN)

The widely used "*CSIRO Handbook of Australian Insect Names*", last revised in 1993 has been updated and expanded to reflect taxonomic changes, new names and newly recorded species. The updating and transfer of the Handbook to the web has been joint effort of CSIRO Entomology and AFFA's Plant Protection Branch. The new web version of the Handbook was launched in Canberra on 23rd April 2001 by Dr Peter Raven, Director of

the Missouri Botanical Gardens. The web site can be found "http://www.ento.csiro.au/aicn".
For the first time images and distribution maps accompany each species. This is indeed "work in progress", but contains over 2500 insects and allied forms with over 50% of species illustrated and 85% of species accompanied by distribution maps. By moving the familiar and widely used "common names book" to a web format the way has been paved for more frequent updating. The compilers welcome comments and contributions from all users of the web site.

The Waite Insect and Nematode Collection

The Waite Insect and Nematode Collection (WINC) was formed in early 2001 by the merger of Adelaide University's Duncan Swan Insect Collection (WARI), the Waite Institute Nematode Collection (WINC), and the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) insect collection. WINC is housed at the Waite Campus of Adelaide University.
The combined collection contains in excess of 500,000 insect and other arthropod specimens that are dry mounted, in spirit, or on slides. It is extensively used by staff and postgraduate students to undertake identifications and as a source of biological and distributional information. A significant number of paratype specimens are held but all holotypes are lodged in the National Collection in Canberra. Notable holdings of particular importance to taxonomic research include collections of larvae and other immature stages of groups injurious to plants, acridid grasshoppers and scarabaeid beetles. In addition there are significant collections of Acarina, Araneae, Thysanoptera, Homoptera (chiefly Psylloidea and Coccoidea), Lepidoptera and parasitic Hymenoptera.
The collection also houses the largest collection of plant, soil and entomophilic nematodes in Australia, and is currently the largest world collection of endemic Australian plant and soil nematodes. It contains approximately 20,000 glass slides with nematodes mounted in glycerol. As well as valuable reference material, the collection is an important resource for studies of biodiversity and distribution of nematodes, including materials from collection sites around Australia from both agricultural and natural habitats. The mounted nematodes comprise an older plant parasitic component, to which have been added large numbers of dorylaimid, mononchid and entomophilic nematodes. The collection is a basic resource essential for all nematological research work: it contains voucher material from numerous field workers including plant breeders, for diagnostic work and quarantine, as well as some type material.
WINC is managed by a joint Adelaide University/ SARDI committee comprising (as of March 2001):
Dr John Jennings (Convenor - Adelaide University)
Mr Greg Baker (SARDI)
Dr Kerrie Davies (Adelaide University)
Mr Ken Henry (SARDI)
For further information, see http://www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/WINC/ or contact: john.jennings@adelaide.edu.au

WWWeb Spinners

Tish Silberbauer, Ecosystem Management, School of Rural Science and Natural Resources, University of New England, Armidale, NSW 2351.
Email: LSILBERB@metz.une.edu.au
If you find any of these links are dead, or if you have any favourite web sites, please e-mail me and I'll do my best to list them in the next edition of Myrmecia
Thanks to Robert Lavigne for directing me to the Asilidae web page.
Taxon-specific sites: http://www.geller-grimm.de/asilidae.htm – a comprehensive web page on robber flies by Fritz Geller-Grimm. It includes information on history, morphology, phylogeny, distribution, ecology, biology, collecting, determination and a list of references.
http://www.furman.edu/~snyder/leplist/ – John Snyder's web images of North American moth species site. It contains links to photos and drawings of nearly 2,300 moth species.
Journals and newsletters
www.tils-ttr.org – Ron Gatrelle, Scott Massey and Harry Pavulaan's International Lepidoptera Survey Taxonomic Report web site. The web page has available old editions of the taxonomic report, as well as the TILS newsletters.
Others
http://www.best.com/~atta/taxonomy.html – Curiosities of biological taxonomy. There are several web pages devoted to some of the sillier and funnier names we give to organisms; this is one of them! The list is organised into etymologies, puns and funny sounds, wordplay and, in a nod to a more modern kind of biology, funny names of genes.

REGIONAL NEWS

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Special Notice

Her many friends and colleagues will be saddened to hear of the death of **Kay Lindsay** in Canberra on 21 April, after a two-year battle with ovarian cancer. Kay had been quarantine entomologist at Sydney before transferring to Canberra to the Policy Branch of AQIS. Our condolences go to her husband John and her son Matthew.

CSIRO Entomology

Olga Schmidt has had her taxonomic paper on the Australasian geometrid moth genus *Anachloris* accepted for publication in the Australian Journal of Entomology. This genus contains relatively bright coloured, beautiful, mainly day flying moths that are also attracted to light at night. Their larvae feed on *Hibbertia* species. She is currently completing another taxonomic manuscript on the exciting, and mostly overlooked by collectors, Australasian genus-group *Chaetolopha sensu lato*. The larvae of the Australian species of the genus feed on ferns, which are important components of rainforests and wet sclerophyll forests in Australia. For this revision she examined the material from the main Australian insect collections and made a trip to Europe and America to check the geometrid moth accessions of the Natural History Museum (London), the Canadian National Collection (Ottawa) and the Smithsonian Institution (Washington, D.C.). **Peter Gillespie** at Orange recently found a curious little thrips amongst collections of insects taken by fogging the big Moreton Bay Fig trees in Sydney's Domain. After several visits to to peer at leaves and flowers of various plants in the Domain, interspersed with visits to the Opera, **Alice Wells** and **Laurence Mound** eventually discovered the source of this little thripid. Up to 100 males at a time were found forming aggregations on the slender buds of a few of the big fig trees in the Domain, with the females visiting briefly before crawling inside the bracts to oviposit on the unopened leaf inside. The species belongs to a genus of little known leaf-thrips from eastern Australia to Nepal. **Murray Upton** has pointed out that he resigned his position as a CSIRO Honorary Fellow at the end of 2000, in protest at the forced retirement of **David Rentz** and the manner in which this was conducted. **David Yeates** has been busy establishing his laboratory at ANIC and his interactions as adjunct associate professor at ANU. **Chris Palmer** will begin an APA funded PhD on Tasmanian apterous scorpionflies in April. Enrolled through ANU, he will conduct most of his bench research in ANIC. **Christine Lambkin** will take up a postdoctoral position in mid May, researching the systematics of stiletto flies (Therevidae). David and other members of the Natural Resources and Biodiversity program have been assisting **Rob Floyd** to put together a proposal for the current Major National Research Facilities round. He was called to California at short notice early in March to act as the Division's representative after Ebbe Nielsen's sudden passing there. David was also in Coffs Harbour early in April for an intensive project management course, and has visited collections in Brisbane, Sydney and Orange in February and March. He has also been occupied with the organisation of the next International Congress of Dipterology to be held in Brisbane in the second half of 2002.

Adam Slipinski joined ANIC in November 2000. He did his PhD in Cracow (Poland) where he worked at the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals on the phylogeny and classification of beetles (Cerylonidae). After finishing his PhD he worked for 18 years at the Museum and Institute of Zoology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, holding various research and curatorial positions like the Curator of Coleoptera, Director of Research and for the last 5 years Director in Chief. He spent one year as a visiting professor of Entomology in Montana Sate University, Bozeman, and during 1999-2000 he was professor of biology at the University of Zielona Gora, developing teaching and research in entomology and environmental biology. Author of 80 research publications, and an editor of a two-volume book on the phylogeny and classification of beetles, in November 2000 Adam was awarded by the President of the Polish Republic a lifetime title "professor of biological sciences". Adam's research concentrates on the phylogeny and higher classification of beetles, with particular interests in mycophagous and predatory groups of Histeroidea, Cucujoidea and Tenebrionoidea.

John LaSalle also joined ANIC in November. A native Californian who received his PhD from the University of California, Riverside, he is a parasitic Hymenoptera systematist. However, he has wide interests in the evolution, biology, behaviour and impact of these insects in both agricultural and natural ecosystems. John comes to Australia after working from 1989 to late 2000 for CABI Bioscience, originally the now defunct International Institute of Entomology based at The Natural History Museum,

London. He is involved in a collaborative project on the parasitoids of invasive leafminers in SE Asia, and he and his wife and two boys are quickly settling in to enjoy life in Australia.

The Bt project continues apace with three recent commencements in **Ray Akhurst's** group. **Richard Watts** joins the team as a post-doc to develop new strategies for identifying insecticidal proteins. On her return from Canada, **Rebecca Osborne**, formerly with **David Dall's** entomopox virus project, took up a technical officer position working on bloodworm with support from the CRC for Sustainable Rice Production. **Michael Zuckerman** has started a PhD project on a scholarship from the Cotton R&D Corporation; he is investigating the protease susceptibility of the Cry1Ac insecticidal protein under the supervision of **Ray Akhurst** and **David Ollis** (Research School of Chemistry, ANU). Plans for the 4th Pacific Rim Conference on the Biotechnology of *Bacillus thuringiensis* and Its Environmental Impact, Canberra, November 11-15th 2001) are advancing nicely, with good responses from international invited speakers and to the First Announcement brochure. Details are available at http://www.ento.csiro.au/bt/.

Office of the Chief Plant Protection Officer

Ian Naumann has been busy preparing the common names of insects handbook for its Internet incarnation. The website, to be hosted by CSIRO Entomology, incorporates distribution maps and illustrations, and will be launched formally on 23 April. Funding for the National Pest and Disease Database has been approved by Plant Health Australia. **Paul Pheloung** will join Ian and the Database management team to kick off this ambitious endeavour over the coming months. In March, Ian was in Kuala Lumpur to deliver a keynote address at an Invasive Arthropod Pests Seminar convened by the South East Asian Regional Centre of CABI. Ian also met with representatives of ASEANet and MARDI regarding new regional initiatives, and former CABI hymenopterist, **Andy Polaszek**. Other major entomological preoccupations of the Office have included the red fire ant incursion in Brisbane and preparations for an APEC-ASEAN diagnostics workshop in Brisbane in July.

David Rees, with **Noel Starick** and **Bradley Brown** of SGRL, are completing a survey of Psocid infestations of grain storage facilities in the wheat belt together and grain export facilities. Research on the insect themselves, continues to better understand their behaviour to control them effectively, especially in unsealed grain storages. During the first week of March **Jane Wright** attended and represented the Australian grain industry at the Grain Elevator and Processing Society (GEAPS) meeting held at Phoenix Arizona. Continuing the search for practical and immediately available replacements for methyl bromide for commodity fumigation, **Peter Annis** and **Rainer Reuss** of SGRL undertook some field trials at the beginning of April. These involved closely monitored trial fumigations of dried fruit with ethyl formate, in Merbein Vic., and milled rice with carbon dioxide, at Deniliquin NSW.

Martin J. STEINBAUER
Regional Councillor

Australian Plague Locust Commission

All staff were flat out last spring containing a major plague of locusts, talking to TV cameras, and delivering babies (some not all). The first operational use of the Green Guard fungus must rate as the real highlight. The "Green Team", headed by **David Hunter** and including **Mark Rowland** (CSIRO), **Tony Gonzales** (QDNR) and **Simon Blanford** (Imperial College, London), treated 20,000 ha with *Metarhizium* in a world's first. **Paul Story** spent some long nights on the Hay plain with famous birdo **David Baker-Gabb** and University of Wollongong student **Gavin Stephens** chasing Plains Wanderers and other birds that could be affected by locust spraying, and still arrived home in time to deliver baby number one - congratulations Paul and Georgeanne. **Graeme Hamilton** and **Peter Spurgin** took **Clive Elliott** from the Migratory Pests Group, FAO Rome, on a magical mystery tour of NSW, and in one week managed to show him everything the APLC has to offer, including the Mildura jazz and wine festival. Locust activity has reduced through the summer, leaving time for what we really do best - making TV documentaries. So far, appearances includes: ABC Landline, National Geographic, Oxford Scientific Films and BBC Horizon. How much is left on the cutting room floor remains to be seen. Also watch out for an article in Australian Geo magazine revealing several APLC staff in a new light.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia

In October 2000, the Department underwent a significant restructure. This included changes whereby Plant Quarantine Policy Branch of the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service was

renamed Plant Biosecurity, in a new business group called Biosecurity Australia. The following entomologists are working in Plant Biosecurity: **Wendy Lee**, **Wendy Odgers**, **Tingkui Qin**, **Carol Quashie-Williams**, **Alison Roach**, **Bruce Halliday** (secondment) and **Penny Greenslade** (contract).

Penny Greenslade has been working as a quarantine entomologist consultant for the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy. She has now commenced a 6-month contract with Plant Biosecurity working on quarantine and policy issues, but is still pursuing her Collembola interests. **Bruce Halliday** is on secondment from ANIC and is working for Plant Biosecurity for the next three months. His mite expertise is being used to great effect. **Alison Roach** is now working on plant policy and international issues for NAQS scientific. Recent involvement has been organising a survey of Australian military sites on Bougainville Island. **Tingkui Qin** went to Indonesia late last year to conduct a mite identification workshop with Indonesian Quarantine authorities. The workshop was well received and valuable contacts were established.

Australian National University

Lyn Cook has had her PhD thesis accepted on the biology of the genus *Apiomorpha* and is now working for **Mike Crisp** on plant questions. **Sophia Dimitriades** is hard at work on her research into the palaeoecology of Australian aquatic insects. Sophia and **Peter Cranston** attended the International meetings for the Societas Internationalis Limnologiae Theoreticae et Applicatae in Melbourne in February. **You Ning Su** submitted his Masters thesis on taxonomy and biology in nemobiine crickets in March. **Trudi Wharton** is well into her second field season investigating the biology of the pine aphid *Essigella californica* and has scaled great heights to obtain specimens. **Stuart Dennis** is beginning his PhD on regulation of moulting in aquatic insects. **Jenni McInnes** has been chasing numbered dragonflies around Black Mountain, looking at reproduction and flying activity as part of her Honours project with **John Trueman**. John is continuing his work on *Petalura gigantea* and studying aspects of the biology of the larval stages. **Chris Palmer** has just arrived and is starting a PhD with John and **David Yeates** of CSIRO Entomology studying the biology of the wingless scorpion fly of Tasmania.

Terry BOWDITCH
Regional Councillor

NEW SOUTH WALES

Conservation News

Robin Gunning, the Australian Entomological Society's representative in the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee is thrilled that the Lord Howe Island Phasmid was recently re-discovered on Balls Pyramid, a rocky outcrop offshore from Lord Howe Island. The Lord Howe Island Phasmid was listed as an endangered species in NSW several years ago. Robin is, however, very disturbed about hare brained schemes to re-introduce the phasmid to Lord Howe Island without eliminating the threatening processes (eg rats) which resulted in the phasmid's extinction there many years ago.

University of New England

John Stanley has re-joined **Peter Gregg's** lab following his stint in Malaysia for CSIRO. John is involved in a number of projects, related to environmental impacts of genetically modified crops. Honours student **Sharon O'Keefe** is working on new trap designs for attractants for *Helicoverpa*. **Amelia Reddall's** PhD thesis on mites in cotton has been submitted and passed. Congratulations! **Rob Annett's** PhD thesis on *Microplitis* parasitising *Helicoverpa* in cotton has been submitted and is currently being assessed.

Tish Silberbauer is happily ensconced in the Department of Ecosystem Management, working on a project with Associate Prof. **Nick Reid** "The nature and value of ecosystem services in the Gwydir Valley, northern NSW".

Elizabeth Macarthur Institute, Camden

According to **Grant Herron** and **Garry Levot**, they are just getting on with it!! Grant has Western Flower Thrips trials underway in WA and hopes to start trials in NSW soon. The cotton season is drawing to a close and Grant's lab has had aphids coming out of their ears. Testing of this season's two spotted mite from cotton has started but has been complicated by a resistance detection in horticulture.

Australian Cotton Research Institute, Narrabri

Robert Mensa from NSW Agriculture is currently in China looking at IPM practices on cotton.

Tamworth Centre for Crop Improvement

The cotton season is drawing to a close and **Robin Gunning** and her team are almost able to pause to take breath, at last! The *Helicoverpa* resistance monitoring programme has been very arduous.

Robin's lab recently hosted **Susan Young** a PHD student from Imperial College in the UK for 3 months. Susan is studying insecticide use on cotton pests. Susan, Robin and **Emma Cottage** visited the Darwin area in March to collect insecticide susceptible whiteflies. Susan (who hails from Glasgow), discovered that crocodiles certainly add a new dimension to field work!

Robin Gunning has just returned from practicing French in West Africa. Robin addressed (in French!!), a meeting of cotton entomologists from the West African francophone nations on the subject of the management of pyrethroid resistance in *Helicoverpa armigera*.

Robin GUNNING
Regional Councillor

University of Western Sydney

Andrew Beattie has recently returned from Indonesia and Vietnam, following visits with **Paul De Barro** (CSIRO) to meet with potential collaborators for an ACIAR project on citrus greening. We welcome **Iqbal Mahsood** (PhD), **Damian Conlan** (MSc Hons) and **Melissa Bell** (B Hort Hons) this year. Mahsood is investigating behavioural responses of noctuid moths (especially *Helicoverpa* spp) to oil spray deposits, Damian's topic is sustainable pest management in the Australian olive industry, and Melissa is assessing the potential of the native blue-banded bees, *Amegilla* spp., for buzz pollination of greenhouse crops.

Beneficial Bugs

Andy Ryland, Manager of Beneficial Bug Co, located on the UWS Richmond campus celebrated their first year of independent operation with staff and owners **Dan Papacek** and **James Altman**. This year has been successful, but Andy looks forward to the operation of the new expanded facilities later this year. Dan still manages to fly directly from Mundubbera into Richmond RAAF base! (apparently he gets on well with the base commander).

NSW Society

There has been a changing of the guard in the NSW Society, with **Robert Spooner-Hart** and **Dinah Hales** making way for the new president **Oleg Nicetic** and vice-president **Albert Basta**, with **Barbara May** stepping down to allow **Tanya James** a role as secretary. All of the old guard remain on the Council, and look forward to the contributions of their newly elected colleagues.

Robert SPOONER-HART
NSW Regional Councillor

Australian Museum

The Centre for Biodiversity & Conservation Research and Entomology Department, continues to be busy. Faunanet - a web based mapping facility being managed by **Gerry Cassis** and **Paul Flemons**, currently for material held in the museum - will be launched in June. It is linked to the Master Names List - a web based checklist of current scientific names of organisms in New South Wales. These products will be linked to web based keys – eg for bugs by **Michael Elliott** and for scarabs of eastern NSW by **Rebecca Harris**.

Gerry Cassis, **Chris Reid**, **Max Moulds**, **Paul Flemons**, **Gareth Carter**, **Lance Wilkie**, and a lot of other people from the museum, carried out a major survey of the insects (& other inverts) of Lord Howe Island. All major habitat types were sampled, using GIS, with pitfalls, leaf-litter and foliage sampling, together with the usual adhockery. The study included sampling the diverse weed flora for adaptation or lack of by the natives. Lord Howe is a World Heritage Area and not part of the Australian biogeographic province, yet has no quarantine from New South Wales, its parent state. The result is an ever increasing list of weeds, a frog, banana weevil etc, in fact a microcosm of Australia. The expeditions failed to find any evidence of the big phasmid on the main island, but a separate trip to Balls Pyramid by **Margaret Humphreys** was successful.

Several projects are in writing-up phase: the Darling Riverine Plains survey, South-east Forests CRA, Bitou Bush and coastal heathland insects. The entomology collection is expanding rapidly. Of course, the collection hall is still as drab as ever but has new air-conditioning and the spirit collection has been rehoused.

Gerry Cassis has completed the second ABRS bug catalogue. He also spent 3 weeks in the American Museum discussing Mirid systematics with **Toby Schuh** and a week in Bogor talking projects with our south-east Asian neighbours. Gerry and **Rossana Silveira** have just published the first of a series of works on Australian Gelastocoridae. **David McAlpine** and **Barry Day** had a successful visit to New Zealand to procure some obscure flies (*Zalea* and Huttoninidae). **Dan Bickel** has also been overseas, examining Dolichopodidae in Costa Rica, Argentina and the States. **Chris Reid** hasn't been anywhere, but is plugging along with the Adeliine

tenebrionids – there are almost as many synonyms as new species in the NSW fauna. Visitors have included **Joseph Scheer** (Alfred University) to photograph moths.

Several students are actively involved with entomology at the museum: **Fiona Christie** (invert diversity and *Angophora*); **Scott Lassau** (use of GIS in biogeography of terrestrial arthropods); **Jim Mant** (co-evolution of thynnines and orchids); **Annie Noack** (taxonomy of *Temelucha* ichneumonids); **Adele Reid** (invertebrate diversity and pastures); **Jaynia Tarnawski** (seed-predation in bitoubush scrub).

Chris REID

NSW Agriculture, Orange

Agricultural Scientific Collections Unit

Recent visitors to the Unit have included **Marie-Claude Larivière** and **André Larochelle** from Landcare Research, Auckland. While André worked away at his carabids, Marie-Claude spent two weeks with **Murray Fletcher** incorporating the New Zealand Auchenorrhyncha fauna into Murray's web-based keys and checklists and developing a parallel website for Landcare Research. The two websites will be linked together where appropriate to give comprehensive keys to the New Zealand fauna to augment Murray's keys to the Australian fauna. The results of this collaboration are on the ASCU website (http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/Hort/ascu/keys.htm) and the Landcare Research website (http://www.landcare.cri.nz/science/biodiversity/arthropods/hemwsite/start.htm) for all to see.

In March, ASCU hosted a visit by **Rob Floyd** and his new boys at the ANIC. **John LaSalle** came a few days early to assist with a curation audit of the ASCU collections, including the Plant Pathology Herbarium and Bacteriology culture collection as well as the entomological collections. **Adam Slipinski** and **David Yeates** spent time perusing their respective groups of interest and all four presented a joint seminar on their research interests and the role of the ANIC as part of the network of specialist taxonomy supporting agriculture in Australia. Further to this theme, Rob, Murray and John held a meeting with **Helen Scott-Orr**, NSW Agriculture's Executive Director for research and the Chairman of the Scientific Collections Trust, to discuss a collaborative funding proposal to create an integrated network of agricultural collections in Australia.

Murray Fletcher has been in Canberra regularly over the last few months for various reasons including attending Ebbe's farewell, attending the joint AFFA/ANIC launch of the Common Names List on the web, to attend an AFFA meeting on the glassy-winged sharpshooter and the risk it poses to the Australian Wine Industry and to work with **Max Day** on Stenocotini. On his most recent visit, he took the opportunity to attend the official opening of the Age of Fishes Museum in Canowindra. This Museum marks the discovery in the 1950s of a fossilised swamp of Devonian fish and is well worth a visit for any passing biologist. Canowindra is on the route from Canberra to Orange and is situated about 15 minutes from Cowra.

The Orange Field Naturalist and Conservation Society held a field trip to Mount Canobolas on Good Friday to find the Mount Canobolas Peripatus, *Cephalofovea parvimenta*. With expert advice from **Noel Tait**, Macquarie University, we managed to find one of these fascinating beasts. *Cephalofovea* is restricted to the Blue Mountains except for the single species restricted to Mount Canobolas.

Murray FLETCHER
Regional Councillor

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy

A second attempt to repel giant African snails was made in Dili in March. **Glenn Bellis** and **Angela Profke** spent a week watching paint dry and racing snails to see if a repellent developed to prevent snails from crossing concrete would work with GAS. The aim is to either prevent snails from entering shipping containers overseas and/or contain any ones that do arrive in Australia by surrounding shipping containers with a band of treated concrete. After several disparaging failures, some success was achieved. The next step is to repeat the trial in 3 months to check the longevity of the repellent.

The discovery of a new leafhopper on beach hibiscus in Darwin in March was initially of some concern as it resembled the dreaded Indian cotton leafhopper, *Amrasca devastans*. Since that time attempts by NTDPI&F to establish this insect on a range of crops normally favoured by *A. devastans* have been unsuccessful suggesting that it may not be this pest. This, coupled with the existence of both true *A. devastans* and the beach hibiscus variant in East Timor, supports the theory that the beach hibiscus variant may in fact be a subspecies of *A. devastans* or a different species entirely.

Medical Entomology Branch

The Branch has had a hectic wet season this year which is now drawing to a close with the first of

the dry season weather. Sentinel chicken MVE seroconversions over a wide area of central Australia sparked increased mosquito monitoring and control in the Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine areas. Widespread summer rain in Central Australia caused high mosquito pest problems and mosquito borne disease. The associated media releases and control advice kept the phones hot. The result so far has been two cases of MVE in the Alice area in February and lots of Ross River virus cases in central Australia.

Further hectic control operations were required with the two risk importations of exotic *Aedes* mosquitoes into the Darwin port area. Details will appear in the next MCAA bulletin. **Jane Carter**, **Brett Brogan** and **Allan Warchot** were kept busy with the fogger, ovi-trapping and interacting with AQIS staff. Increased monitoring has shown successful elimination of the importations.

Other ongoing projects such as the proposed prawn farm and the methanol plant kept **Peter Whelan** and **Gwenda Hayes** busy with inspections and report preparation and other staff including Allan Warchot and Brett Brogan busy at the microscopes. They were helped in the latter stages by a new staff member, **Gisela Lamche**, with admin officer **Catherine Goody** assisting with technical help and multiskilling. **Jane Carter** has now taken a well deserved long service leave break until June. Gwenda will be assisted by new recruit **Nina Kurucz** to fill in the gaps.

Visitors to the Branch included RAAF environmental health officers **Jerry McMillan** and **Ian White** to train on mosquito identification, and DPI&F staff **Neville Hunt** and **Sue Ormond** to review identification of *Culex* species for virus isolation. Other visitors included NGO staff from Timor for discussions on mosquito control in East Timor.

Martin Shivas has recently finished the first draft writing up of a *Culicoides* biology research project and is now busy with the final report and preparation of papers for scientific publication. New and interesting details of *C. ornatus* will be eagerly awaited by *Culicoides* researchers.

Northern Territory DPIF Entomology Branch

The start of the dry season is here with most of us breathing a sigh of relief with the slightly cooler weather (our winter!). In the last couple of months the Branch has been busy carrying out surveys on a new leafhopper that has appeared on native beach hibiscus. The leafhopper resembles the cotton leafhopper *Amrasca devastans* but has not been able to breed on cotton, eggplant and chilli seedlings in the laboratory. The Branch will continue to conduct further tests on host preferences. As a response to the fire ant outbreak in Qld, the Branch has supplied specimens of our local ginger ant, *Solenopsis geminata* to various entomologists interstate.

Graham Brown attended the Quarantine Entomologists meeting in February followed by an exotic mollusc training course held by AQIS in Bendigo and then a quick visit to the Museum of Victoria. While Graham was away **Lanni Zhang** (who works with Graham) had a chance to catch up on her backlog of mite identifications and trying to establish a colony of redbanded thrips on rambutan seedlings for trials on soft chemicals. **Megan Hoskins** based in Katherine has been busy taking extension enquiries as well as carrying out her regular monitoring program on citrus and field crops in Douglas Daly. Megan, Graham Brown and **Michael Neal** attended the Katherine Farm and Garden Day and spoke to gardeners and commercial growers on various entomological issues and answering questions on the displays on *Mastotermes*, Integrated Pest Management, Backyard Insects and Ants.

Haidee Brown has been working hard on preparing displays for the Katherine Farm and Garden Day, continuing with the curation of museum specimens and upgrading the Economic Insect Reference Collection Database. **Deanna Chin** has continued with the extension enquiries and is currently updating the DPIF technical bulletin on "Recommended Insecticides for use on Fruit, Vegetables and Ornamentals in the NT". Deanna and Haidee presented two workshops to rambutan growers on the identification of pests and beneficials in orchards and an introduction to integrated pest management. The workshops were attended by enthusiastic rambutan growers and horticulture staff. **Stuart Smith** has been busy managing the Branch, hosting teleconferences, attending numerous meetings and tending to quarantine matters. In March, Stuart visited Ti Tree to monitor the progress of the fruit fly eradication program.

Michael Neal and **Heather Wallace** have commenced timber consumption trials on the giant termite *Mastotermes darwiniensis* at Howard Springs. The trials will attempt to provide information on how much the termite will consume throughout the wet and dry seasons. While Michael and Heather were out doing their field work in March, their termite laboratory was attacked by close relatives of *Mastotermes* and a pest control operator had to be

called for assistance. Finally, **Graham Young's** moment has arrived – he celebrated his 60th birthday at "Angels Cafe" with the Branch and then on 17th April he retired. Graham has made plans to travel to northern Qld in his troop carrier and then revisit Greece (to reclaim his towel from Mr Pelican). Graham has made a valuable contribution to the Branch particularly in his work on insect and mites on Asian vegetables, ants and *Mastotermes* research. We would like to wish Graham a happy retirement and many interesting life experiences during his travels.

Martin SHIVAS
Regional Councillor

QUEENSLAND – NORTH

James Cook University

News abounded from the Tropical Seasonality laboratory housing **Jamie Seymour**. **Darryl Camp** handed in his PhD thesis on mate selection in *Hypolimnas*, and was visited by his Arizona State University supervisor **Rob Rutowski**. **Michael Pieloor** has begun his PhD looking at seasonality in white-kneed crickets. **Andrea Canzano** has begun her Honours degree comparing the metabolic rates of diapausing and non-diapausing *Euploea*. Good news for entomology - **Rhondda Jones** has retired as DVC, and is now a full time research fellow in Biological Sciences.

JCU is now offering a two week intensive entomology course in Townsville early next year in place of a semester long subject.

CRC-TREM

Simon Grove has secured a post-doc with **Nigel Stork**, studying beetle biodiversity patterns in the Wet Tropics. The team has just reached the 1000 species mark from the Cape Tribulation beetle sampling.

QDPI Entomology

Simon Grove visited **Ross Storey** to fill in a few identification gaps in material collected during his PhD work. A sample of Simons material was donated to the QDPI collection. **Dr. Martin Baehr** from Zoologische Staatssammlung, München Germany, also dropped by to see Ross. Martin is 'Leiter der Sektion Coleoptera' at the museum, and was making collections of beetles for his continuing studies on Australian Carabidae.

Harry Fay and **Keith Halfpapp** tripped to Brisbane for project talks, with Keith staying on to assist in the imported red fire ant management project. **Bruno Pinese** will also make his way down to Brisbane to do his stint with the fire ant team.

NAQS Mareeba

NAQS entomologists based in Mareeba (**Judy Grimshaw**, **Kerrie Huxham** and **Kylie Anderson**), Broome (**Tony Postle**) and Darwin (**Glenn Bellis**) gathered together in Cairns with the rest of the NAQS team, including staff from Cairns (**Anna Morrisen**) and Canberra (**Alison Roach**), for a scientific gabfest in January. I could tell you what the outcomes were, but then I'd have to kill you! **Deborah Middleton** presented interesting results into research into Japanese encephalitis in Australian fauna. **Kerrie Huxham** presented results of a fruit fly trapping efficiency trial, comparing Paton, Steiner and Lynfield traps. **Glenn Bellis** told of work using the rainbow bee-eater as an Asian honeybee monitoring or response tool.

Kerrie organised a fruit fly identification workshop which also involved NAQS staff **Simon Kniveton** (Broome) and **Angela Profke** (Darwin), and **Jane Royer** from Cairns QDPI. The workshop was conducted by fruit fly guru **Dave Hancock**.

Gary Wilson of EPA introduced **James Cook**, a gall and wasp-fig interaction chap from the University of London. We sent him off with a quarantine cap to spread the message in the UK.

Barbara Waterhouse and **Judy Grimshaw** attended a 'banana variety identification workshop'

Fruit fly workshop: Kerrie Huxham, Jane Royer, Kylie Anderson, Glenn Bellis, Angela Profke, Dave Hancock, Simon Kniveton, Tony Postle.

at the South Johnstone labs of QDPI. The course was good, but with far too many banana varieties! The survey season is now in 'full swing' for the NAQS team, and although the survey of coastal communities in PNG was delayed from February to May this didn't stop Barbara and Judy from doing an overseas survey in March. They travelled to Bougainville with the Australian Defence Force, to assess the Quarantine risks associated with movement of our troops from the Peace Monitoring Group over there. The visit was very useful and a number of recommendations were made to reduce the Quarantine risks and speed up the processing of returned equipment.

Kylie ANDERSEN
Regional Councillor

QUEENSLAND – SOUTH

Alan Fletcher Research Station, Department of Natural Resources

Michael Day reports that he travelled to NSW in March to meet with **Phil Stephenson**, NSW Agriculture, and NSW NPWS staff to view lantana sites and survey associated insects. Michael found many areas in National Parks in subcoastal regions infested with lantana with no biocontrol agents present. These areas appear to be just outside the climatic tolerances for these agents. **Royce Holtkamp**, NSW Agriculture visited Michael in April to discuss lantana research as part of the new CRC Weed Management Systems. In contrast, Michael has been receiving many calls from landholders in southeast Qld reporting extensive damage to lantana by the tingid bug *Teleonemia scrupulosa*. It appears that the relatively dry summer has provided ideal conditions for these insects to build up into damaging numbers.

Army Malaria Institute

Stephen Frances says that **Bob Cooper** is currently studying mosquito vectors of malaria and dengue in East Timor, and is due to return to Brisbane in mid May. Lieutenant Colonel **Nguyen Van Dung**, from the Vietnamese Army, arrived in Brisbane in mid February, and will work in the entomology section for 6 months.

Recent visitors to the institute include **David Lubim**, from Sarawak, Malaysia, who was visiting Queensland as part of a World Health Organisation funded training visit. **Jeff Ryan** and **Mike Perich**, from the Entomology Department, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Washington, DC visited in mid March to discuss sporozoite dipstick assays and vector control in East Timor.

Australian School of Environmental Studies, Griffith University

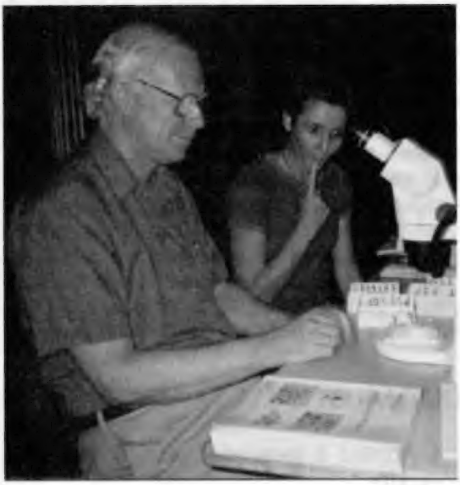
Rainforest CRC Project 5.2 on faunal biodiversity values of restored rainforest (led by **Carla Catterall**) has been ploughing steadily along. Fifty-four sites in SE QLD and northern NSW were surveyed in February/April for birds, herpetofauna, and litter invertebrates by the intrepid team of **Terry Reis** and **John Kanowski**. A frightening backlog of pitfall samples and Tullgren extractions is piling up behind **Heather Proctor**, who is only halfway through samples from the fifty Atherton sites visited in November 2000. John and Terry are now back on the Atherton Tablelands for the 'post-wet' sampling, and will be assisted by **Peter Grimbacher**, a new Ph.D. candidate jointly supervised by Carla, Heather, and **Roger Kitching**. Peter is interested in comparing the beetle assemblages in restored rainforest to those found in intact sites and natural rainforest gaps. Another new rainforest enthusiast is **Fred Beaulieu**, recently arrived from Quebec. Fred is starting a Ph.D. with **Dave Walter** (University of Queensland), Heather Proctor and Roger Kitching on host- and microhabitat-specificity of plant-associated mites. In mid-March, Heather Proctor and 18 other avid arthropodologists took part in 'Bug Catch 2001', an initiative of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. QPWS invited members of the Entomological Society of Queensland for a weekend of bug-catching at Conondale National Park in exchange for collection records. Much light-trapping, kick-sampling, dung-baiting, and leech-removing ensued, and a good time was had by all. **Jenny Haines**, QPWS Ranger, kindly took the photos.

Heather PROCTOR
Regional Councillor

QDPI

A combination of funding from the Australian Cotton CRC and the Cotton R&D Corporation (total of $414,000 over 3 years) will allow a collaborative project between QDPI and NSW Agriculture to proceed. The project is entitled "Managing *Helicoverpa* spp. on cotton with semio-(signalling)-chemicals", and will see QDPI's organic chemist **Chris Moore** (ARI Yeerongpilly) teamed up with NSW Ag's IPM expert **Robert Mensah** (ACRI Narrabri). The project seeks new and environmentally benign tools to support and diversify integrated pest management (IPM) in the cotton industry. Chemical compounds with the capacity to influence insect behaviour will be sought in the vast array of natural chemicals occurring in plants.

The Conondale National Park Insect Survey team



Dave Hancock explains the finer points of *Bactrocera* identification to an astounded Jane Royer

All lit up - Robert Bell, Dawn Forrer, John Moss, Austin McLennan

At DPI Toowoomba **Gordon Simpson's** mirid team, including **Dave Murray** and **Richard Lloyd**, has just about completed another season's worth of work to generate damage thresholds and a refined management strategy for the pest in cotton. The team used their time this season to concentrate also on sunflowers (why do these plants have to grow so tall?) as a source of mirids and beneficials for neighbouring cotton crops. Further sampling work, in addition to last season's, also helped to determine the distribution of various beneficials in cotton. Since completing another cotton season **Gordon Simpson** has left entomology to concentrate on modelling work with the Queensland Centre for Climate Applications, based in Toowoomba. **Tammy Bull** and **Rebecca Powell** are also leaving the entomology team in Toowoomba, and will be missed.

Amanda Cleary is about to leave **Brad Scholz's** cotton IPM team, although she will remain in Toowoomba. Amanda has received a Cotton CRC Ph.D. scholarship to study the effects of cereal stubble on *Helicoverpa* activity in early season cotton. While everybody in Toowoomba is happy for Amanda, Brad will miss her because she is definitely one of a kind!

Congratulations to two outstanding entomologists from south Queensland: **Peter Allsopp** was awarded a Doctor of Agricultural Science in February, and **Dan Papacek** was awarded an OAM in the Aust Day awards for services to citrus entomology. Well done Peter and Dan!

Brad SCHOLZ
Regional Councillor

QUEENSLAND MUSEUM

Congratulations to our Honorary, **Rudy Kohout**, who scored an ABRS grant to assist his busy retirement work on *Polyrhachis* ants. Rudy was an invited researcher at the ANeT Workshop and Seminar on tropical ants in Sabah last October/ November and managed to fit in a couple of weeks collecting at Mt Kinabalu, Sepilok, Croker Range and the Danu Valley.

John Lawrence, our other Honorary, pops down to Brisbane occasionally from his retirement retreat near Gympie and tries to keep up with sorting the vast output of ciid beetles which **Chris Burwell** generates from his study of *Asticus* wasps which are specialist parasites of the ciids. Ciids breed in woody bracket fungi and our lab is starting to look like an Asian herbal medicine shop with bottles and bottles of shrivelled fungi of strange shapes and colours.

Geoff Monteith and **Doug Cook** did a ten-day, circuit of inland central Queensland in March to wind up the 25 vinescrub and brigalow trap sites that have been running through the summer months. They got some more of the "arrow-headed bugs" which they had located on gidyea trees near Clermont last October. These curious bugs were discovered in WA a couple of years ago and are being described as a new subfamily of pentatomids by **Pavel Stys** in Czechoslovakia. The Queensland discovery means they are probably all over semi-arid Australia, so keep your eyes out when peeling bark.

Chris Burwell took fellow chalcidologist from the Royal Ontario Museum, **Chris Darling**, to Mt Isa for a week in March in search of the life history of the enigmatic perilampid/eucharitid genus *Akupala* which **Susan Evans** had turned up there last year. Their failure to recatch *Akupala* was balanced by good other collecting, including more than 20 insect bioprospecting samples.

The Museum was pleased to launch a special issue of its house journal, The Memoirs of the Queensland Museum, devoted to invertebrates of the Wet Tropics of North Queensland and edited by Geoff Monteith. This runs to 358 pages and has 20 papers dealing with a great range of invertebrate groups including fireflies, dung beetles, ants, shield bugs, snails, funnel-webs, carabids, phasmids, midges, schizomids, dynastines and survey techniques. A small over-run printing is available for individual purchase at the subsidised cost of $30 plus $6 postage. Geoff has negotiated a 20% discount for purchase of the Memoirs plus the Museum's recent "Wildlife of Tropical Queensland". This 368 page handbook deals with 844 animal species of the region and has 937 colour photographs. It includes 66 pages of insects and is normally priced at $39 posted. Discount price for the two books, posted in Australia, is $56.40. If you would like to buy one or both books send your request direct to: Geoff Monteith, Qld Mus, Box 3300, Sth Brisbane.Q.4101, with cheque payable to the Queensland Museum.

Geof MONTIETH

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dept. Applied & Molecular Ecology, Adelaide University

The Waite Insect and Nematode Collection (WINC) combining the Former Duncan Swan Insect Collection, and Waite Nematode Collection of Adelaide University with the SARDI Insect Collection has been formed (see article page 12).

Sergey Belkobylskij, who is the Leading

Research Scientist in the Laboratory of Insect Systematics, Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg, is visiting **Andy Austin**'s group for 2 months. Sergey is a braconid specialist, and is working with **Muhammad Iqbal** and Andy on a revision of Australian doryctine wasps.

Honours student **Judy Bellati** who is working on the community ecology of the guanophilic invertebrates in Bat Cave at the Naracoorte World Heritage Area, and **Andy Austin** her supervisor, met with **Elery Hamilton-Smith**, Australia's foremost cave expert, and **Brian Clarke**, senior manager at Naracoorte, to discuss progress on her project. Judy is examining the seasonality in guanophilic invertebrates and possible reasons for their apparent decline in recent years.

Travis Gotch has commenced his PhD with **Andy Austin** and **Mike Keller** looking at dispersal and colonisation of wetland dependant spiders in arid Australia. Travis is the recipient of the inaugural Collex Flinders-Baudin Scholarship.

Andy Austin, John Jennings, Muhammad Iqbal and **Nick Stevens** recently finalised two large projects; the production of an interactive key to the families of Australian Hymenoptera using LucID, and an ABIF (Australian Biodiversity Information Facility) checklist of a number of smaller superfamilies of Hymenoptera.

Andy Austin attended the first Executive Committee planning meeting for the International Congress of Entomology to be held in Brisbane in 2004.

South Australian Museum

Following the fires in Ngarkat Conservation Park in December 1998, **Archie McArthur** has been trapping ants in the burned areas.

SARDI Entomology

Dennis Hopkins and **Ken Henry** are basking in the afterglow of helping South Australia avoid the effects of a potentially disastrous plague of *Chortoices terminifera*, and in helping the State government spend $6 million in the process.

Ross Stanger reports that the Portuguese strain *Mogulones larvatus* seems to have later emergance in the field than French strain on Salvation Jane (=Paterson's Curse). This is a good sign for SA's dry summers. Flea beetles, *Longitarsus echii*, have established at all sites where it has been released. Ross is no longer rearing French *Mogulones larvatus*, which are available to landholders from a Yanco, NSW site, and distributed via field days. Ross is still grappling with mass rearing *Mogulones geographicus* for biological control of Salvation Jane.

My-my Huynh and **Greg Baker** have completed a survey of the mealybug fauna of inland Australian citrus. The results have cleared mealybugs as a quarantine impediment to the lucrative US trade in citrus from this region. Maintaining a quarantine focus, My-my has now joined AQIS in Adelaide

Gabriella Caon and **Ken Henry** are currently holding a series of technical workshops together with the Nursery and Garden Industry South Australia and Tafe Horticulture Centre titled "Identifying Insects on Sticky Traps". Gabriella is also putting together forms (available on the SARDI internet site at http://www.sardi.sa.gov.au/Crops/Entomology) and kits to be used when diagnostic services are required.

Nancy Schellhorn recently moved from CSIRO Narrabri to the Festival State and has already started a field program on IPM of diamond back moth, *Plutella xylostella*, (DBM) in Brassica vegetables .

Peter Ridland and **Nancy Endersby** from Ag Vic visited the DBM team (Nancy Schellhorn, **Greg Baker**, **Dijana Jevremov** (SARDI), **Mike Keller** (U of A), and **Cate Paull** (U of A)) in March and presented their DBM findings from Victoria at the South Australia DBM management workshop.

Tony Burfield has recently joined the group with a background in group training. He is part of the National Western Flower Thrips Strategy and has the particularly difficult task of introducing IPM technology to the vegetable growers of the Northern Adelaide Plains. The arrival of *Frankliniella occidentalis* has brought with it a ruthless exposure of any weaknesses in their pest management practices.

Elisa Kaessler, a recent honours graduate from Adelaide University is helping the Pest Eradication Unit cope with a very bad series of outbreaks of *Ceratitis capitata*. She is presently measuring the performance of a temperature sensitive lethal strain of *C. capitata* sent by **Rosalia Fogliani** and **Bill Woods** of the Western Australian Department of Agriculture.

Peter Bailey is writing up six year's work on the biological control of *Reseda lutea* and is helping **Kaye Ferguson** (Adelaide University) with her work on IPM of *Paraepermenia santaliella* in quandong orchards.

Kevin Powis moved from **Grant Heron's** lab at NSWDA Elizabeth MacArthur to help with bioassay work on *Epiphyas postvittana* and *Pezothrips kellyanus*.

Angela Lush and **Suzanne Charwat** have just returned from the Integrated Control of Slugs and Snails in Agriculture conference in Lyon, France. Angela presented a paper on her work with *Microxeromagna armillata* in citrus orchards of south eastern Australia, while Suzanne presented her work on pest snail management in broadacre crops: an integrated approach. A poster was also presented by Suzanne and **Valerie Kempster** titled - Thermal tolerance in terrestrial snails: implications for successful mechanical control.
Kerrin Bell and **Suzannne Charwat** have established *Sarcophaga penicillata* for biological control of snails on Yorke Peninsula.

John JENNINGS
Regional Councillor

TASMANIA

University of Tasmania
School of Ag. Science/CRC for Sustainable Production Forestry

Mamoru Matsuki arrived in late February to take up the position of lecturer in insect ecology at the CRC SPF. His research experience in eucalypt-insect interactions, interest in the application of mathematical models to pest management and enthusiasm for teaching will add great strength to the research group. Those leaving after summer field work visits included **Neil Gilbert** (University of Cambridge, UK) who was continuing work on *Pieris rapae* and **Brendan Murphy** (PhD student from University of Canterbury, NZ) working on the Tasmanian eucalypt-feeding paropsine beetles and their egg parasitoids. **Karina Potter** is now in Leiden, Netherlands for 3 months, on a Queen's fellowship, further pursuing her PhD research on the ragwort flea beetle by looking at alkaloids and genetic variation in Australian ragwort populations. **Helen Nahrung** also completed a very successful collecting trip to the mainland in summer to examine the population genetics of *Chrysophtharta agricola* across SE Australia. **Jamie Davies** began his PhD project on biocontrol of gorse in April with **John Ireson** (TIAR, Newtown) and **Geoff Allen**. **A.F.G. (Tony) Dixon** (University of East Anglia, UK) also visited for 2 days in April, (detouring from Melbourne), under the CRC SPF visiting scientist scheme, to elaborate his research on ladybirds and biocontrol to an interested audience and to talk with graduate students. **Brian Horton** (DPIWE, Mt Pleasant) with some help from Geoff Allen has been compiling and interesting conference to be held in Launceston in late June on flystrike and lice IPM control strategies that will provide a great overview of past, current and future research.

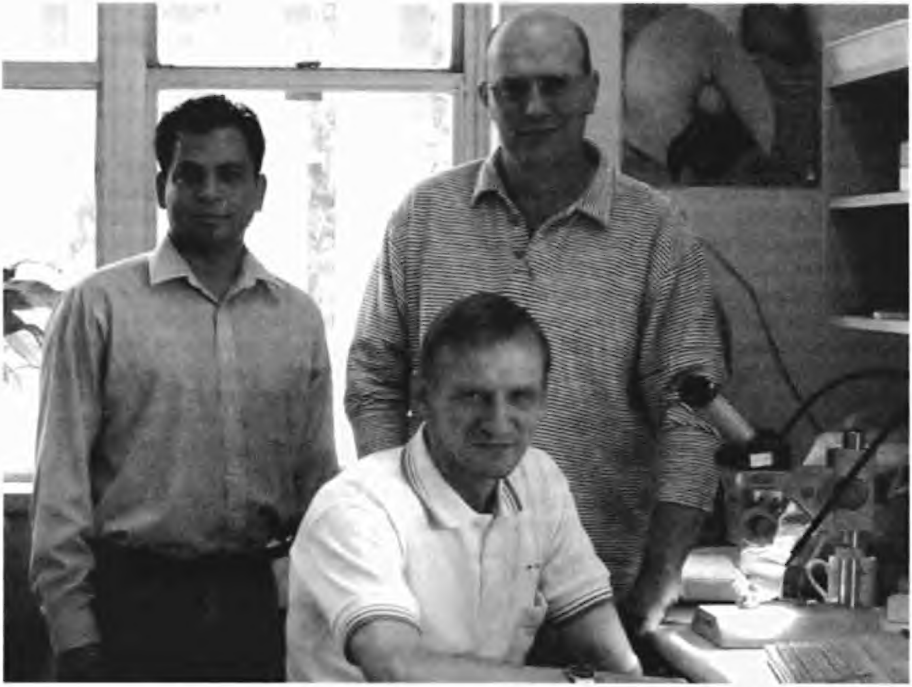
Forestry Tasmania

Dick Bashford reports that monitoring for Asian Gypsy Moth over the summer will be completed at the end of the April (No pluses recorded). Paper sticky traps applied to the same trees at Bell Bay captured a suite of timber insects including some new bostrichid records for Tasmania. At Warra LTER site a baiting trial has been set up aimed at controlling populations of the exotic vespid wasps *V. germanica* and *V. vulgaris*. A marked increase in the sales of roo mince (used in the baits) in Tassie has confounded market analysts. The impact of the baiting continues to be monitored. A joint project with **Dick Bashford**, **Mike Driessen** and **Niall Doran** of DPIWE was set up in early January on an altitudinal transect from 100metres to 1300metres at Mt Weld within the Warra reserve area. Using pitfalls and malaise traps at 100metre intervals they are looking at monthly differences in invertebrate diversity with altitude and floristic composition. Easy getting to the top of Mt Weld (helicopter) but hell of a long walk down! A field day at Warra in April reviewed **Marie Yee's** PhD project on saproxylic insects inhabiting old logs. Entomologists at the field for the day included **Peter McQuillan** and **David de Little**. Over the summer **Jane Elek** tested the spinosad insecticide, "Success", in aerial field trials for controlling leaf beetles in eucalypts plantations, and set up an artificial defoliation trial to assess the impact of chrysomelids and autumn gum moth on young eucalypts.

Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment

Owen Seeman started as permanent full time entomologist with DPIWE at New Town Laboratories in March, doubling the number DPIWE entomologists. Owen was thrown straight into the deep end of public service entomology when the need to produce an import risk assessment for imported pyrethrum seed in a period of days rather than months overtook him and his colleagues.

Geoff. ALLEN
Regional Councillor



Muhammad Iqbal and Andy Austin with Sergey Belkobylskij

VICTORIA

Agriculture Victoria - Tatura

Cathy Mansfield and the IPM tomatoes team has completed this summers field work and is currently examining the results. *Heliothis* was the most important pest of this year's tomato crop and was a concern to growers especially late in February. The *Carpophilus* beetle "attract and kill" trial appears to have produced very positive results and **Mofakhar Hossain** will be discussing these results on a tour of the USA and Europe this winter. **David Williams** and **Alex Il'ichev** recently hosted a visit from **Max Suckling** (NZ) that inspired a wide ranging discussion of pheromone dispersal and usage.

Institute for Horticultural Development, Knoxfield

Entomologists working at the Victorian Agricultural Insect Collection have been involved in a project designed to protect Victorian agriculture and enhance market access. This involves determining pests and potential threats to Victoria's major crops and upgrading our pest records with the eventual aim of publishing the information on a website. Fortuitously, the project has enabled some much needed taxonomy, curation and databasing to be done on our collection. Since starting in December 1999, we have been able to process and database over 5000 specimens, particularly those associated with stone and pome fruit crops.

As part of this project **Mali Malipatil, Kyla Finlay, Linda Semeraro** visited the Australian National Insect Collection in Canberra. We took specimens from our collection to check the identification against types or authentically identified specimens determined by experts. The three of us spent an intensive and taxonomically challenging week looking at the vast array of specimens there and consulting with curators and taxonomists. With but a few exceptions we managed to complete the validation of the 150 or so species we took with us.

Many thanks to the ANIC staff who were extremely helpful; **Graham Crompton, Rolf Oberprieler, Adam Slipinski, Andrew Calder, Ted Edwards** and **Marianne Horak**. Most especial thanks goes to **Tom Wier** who proved an invaluable reservoir

of all things Coleopteran and also knew where to get the best cappuccino!

IPM Technologies Pty Ltd

Easter has marked an easing of the workload for **Cindy Edward** and **Paul Horne**, with crops such as potatoes and lettuce slowly coming to an end. They have had successes with being able to develop and implement specific IPM strategies in lettuce and brassica crops in Werribee South, despite farmers there in general being sceptical. There is now a group of farmers there who are really using IPM well over their entire farms and who cannot imagine going back to their practices of a year ago. Similarly, they have been able to demonstrate IPM in celery to a group of major producers, and most of this group has adopted IPM practices over their entire crops. The challenges of IPM in glasshouses are keeping Paul and Cindy ever more busy over winter, and they expect this to continue. Paul and **Martina Bernard** conducted a project funded in large part by tablegrape growers and HRDC to develop and implement IPM in tablegrapes, with a particular focus on mealybugs and mites. The results were very interesting to many other growers and hopefully IPM will increase in this area as well. IPM Technologies will be involved in several new HRDC projects this year, and the increase in monitoring and research work has meant a necessary increase in staff and facilities. So, the insectary has increased in size to cope with new research. **Neil Hives** remains busy in the Ballarat area, but this will ease off in the Ballarat winter time. We keep in regular contact with **Robin Coy** of Bioprotection, as we continue trials with predatory mites.

Keith Turnbull Research Institute, Frankston

Ian Faithfull spent nine days in New South Wales in February searching for *Bruchophagus* seed wasps in *Acacia* seed. Infested seed was found on several species. Another find was a sawn-off shotgun, dumped beside the highway near Swansea. The insect material is to be reared by **Stefan Neser** in South Africa as part of the Plant Protection Research Insitute's *Acacia* biocontrol program. The gun was collected by the Swansea police.

Robin Adair continues his investigations in South Africa of biocontrol agents for *Polygala myrtifolia* (Myrtle-leaf milkwort) and *Dipogon lignosus* (Dolichos pea), two coastal weeds of southern Australia. Additional populations of the polygala gall mite have been found in areas climatically matched to areas of infestation in Australia and further observations have been made of the polygala bud psyllid. A leaf-feeding cicadellid appears to be the main agent responsible for the suppression of *Dipogon* in South Africa. Host specificity testing is continuing.

David McLaren reports that the ragwort crown-boring moth *Cochylis atricapitana*, released to control ragwort, has now established extensively and is spreading widely in the Strezlecki and Otway Ranges in Victoria. It is affecting ragwort growth but is yet to have a major impact on ragwort populations. Another ragwort biological control agent, the ragwort plume moth, *Platyptilia isodactyla* has only recently been released. Early indications suggest that this agent is also establishing. It is anticipated that the combined impact of these biological control agents will result in reduced ragwort populations.

Museum Victoria

Ken Walker spent most of January in the Wet Tropics of north Queensland collecting bees and feeding leeches. While leeches may be common in such habitats native bees are not so common. Those bees that do occur there often possess unique ocular and ocellar character states presumably to help them deal with low light level of such a habitat. While it can be difficult to find a flowering tree in a rainforest, it can be even more difficult getting a net to the flowers that often occur high up in the canopy. Despite these problems, Ken returned with several of north Queensland rainforest bee species, some of which had not been collected in almost 100 years.

The David Holmes Australian and overseas butterfly collection was recently donated to the Museum under the Cultural Gifts Donation program. David has been collecting, swapping and trading butterflies for the past 45 years and has built up a magnificent collection. While the overseas collection will be used mainly for display, the Australian collection holds many valuable collection locality and date records.

Alan Yen spent almost 6 weeks in Taiwan under an Australian Academy of Science grant as part of the Australia-Taiwan Exchange Program. Alan conducted collaborative biodiversity assessment research with staff at the Taiwan Natural History Museum and the National Chung Hsing University.

Cathy MANSFIELD
Ross FIELD
Regional Councillors

NOTICES

Information request

Kenji Nishida and William Miller are producing a list of gall-inducing Lepidoptera of the world. They are looking for any basic information, such as: gall-inducer (family, genus, species), host plant, plant part affected, geographical distribution, gall type, gall characters. In Australia gall-inducing is associated with the Gracillariidae, Oecophoridae (Stathmopodinae), Cosmopterigidae, Gelechiidae and Sesiidae, but any details will be welcome. If anyone is prepared to help, please contact Kenji at: knishida@cariari.ucr.ac.cr; Mail address: Apdo 1204-1002, Paseo los Estudiantes, San Jose, Costa Rica,
or William Miller: mille014@maroon.tc.umn.edu; Mail address: Dept Entomology, University of Minnesota, 1980 Folwell Ave, St. Paul, MN 55108, U.S.A.

ABSTRACTS available. Program and Abstracts of the Australian Entomological Society 30th AGM and Scientific Conference, 'Insects in the Australian Environment', ANU Canberra, 28 September – 2 October 1999.
Cpies remain available from: Nancy Endersby, (03) 9210 9222; Nancy.Endersby@nre.vic.gov.au

4th Asia Pacific Conference of Entomology

14-17 August 2001, Renaissance Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Please visit website: http://www.mapps.org.my/mapps/APCE.html
For On-line registration form please visit: http://202.185.54.145/conf/apce.html
Conference Secretary: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Idris Abd. Ghani (idrisgh@pkrisc.cc.ukm.my).

Technical Training Course ANIC, Canberra

Staff of the Australian National Insect Collection provide a training course for entomological technicians working with research collections of insects and related organisms for taxonomic study and identification. This course is designed to teach participants how to collect, prepare and curate entomological material to a stage ready for identification. The course comprises a series of demonstrations on these aspects as they relate to the major orders of insects and related arthropods. Specimen identification is not covered in the course. All demonstrations are conducted by ANIC staff expert in the area of concern. The next course will be held 23 - 27 September 2002, at the CSIRO Entomology Black Mountain Laboratories, Clunies Ross St, Acton, ACT 2601.
For more information contact Graham Crompton, ANIC Manager
Phone: (02) 6246 4036
Fax: (02) 6246 4264
Email: graham.crompton@ento.csiro.au
http://www.ento.csiro.au/products/products.html#training

International Conference on Orthopteroid Insects

The Orthopterists' Society, international scientific association for the study of Orthopteroid insects, presents an International Conference in Montpellier, France, from August 19 to 22, 2001.
This conference will take place in Le Corum Montpellier Congress Centre. The local organization is entrusted to Prifas, operational acridology laboratory of the Center of international cooperation in agricultural research for development (CIRAD). This international conference will address some of the main concerns in current Orthopteroid insect research in the field of pest management, ecology, systematics and behaviour. It will comprise 2 symposia with special format (Pest management and Systematic), 1 regular symposium (Ecology) , 1 student symposium (Behaviour), 1 session with the usual short oral presentations. Most communications will have to be presented as posters. Simultaneous translators (French to English and English to French) will cover all formal sessions. Full information (conference format, schedule, registration, accommodation, oral presentations and posters deadline) are available on our web site (regularly updated): http://os2001.cirad.fr

Thrips, Plants, Tospoviruses: the Millenial Review

Reggio Calabria, Italy, 2-7 July 2001
The intention of this Symposium is to bring together the wide range of people interested in the biology of thrips and tospoviruses, to discuss the inter-relationships of these organisms and the impact that they have on crop production. Subjects to be reviewed include: thrips biology, structure, development and ecology; tospovirus structure, epidemiology and host-plant relationships; and the evolution of the thrips/virus relationship.
Websites: http://www.biologie.uni-halle.de/org/thripsnet/news.html
http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/aep/thrips2001
Organising Secretary: Prof Rita MARULLO:

rmarullo@unicirc.it *or* marullo@uniserv.uniplan.it
Programme Chairman: Laurence Mound: laurence@ento.csiro.au

Management of Diamondback Moth and other Crucifer Pests.
4th International Workshop 26-29 Nov. 2001

The fourth international DBM workshop, to be held at the Ubiversity of Melbourne, will continue the tradition of the first two workshops held in Taiwan and the third one held in Malayasia, of bringing together scientists and others involved with the *Brassica* industry from around the world. Themes of the workshop will focus on revision of progress made in *Brassica* Integrated Pest Management in the past two decades since the first workshop and will aim to identify the major impediments to its further progress. Emphasis will be placed on innovations in pest management techniques. Please note that the call for papers and registration details are now available on the new web site http://www.conferences.unimelb.edu.au/moth/
Email: fionacam@unimelb.edu.au.

5th International Congress of Dipterology
September 30 – October 5, 2002
University of Queensland, Brisbane
The International Congress of Dipterology will bring together 300 researchers from a broad range of disciplines to discuss the latest research on Diptera (true flies). The Program will be designed to provide a unique environment in which to discuss current research. Themes will include: Morphology, Physiology and Ultrastructure; Biodiversity and Conservation; Agricultural Diptera; Behaviour and Ecology; Medical, Veterinary and Forensic Diptera; Systematics and Phylogeny; Genetics and Genomics; Collections and Databases
Please see our web site at http://www.uq.edu.au/entomology/dipterol/diptconf.html
ICD5 Congress Secretariat, Conference Connections, PO Box 108, Kenmore, Queensland, Australia 4069; Fax (61 7) 3201 2809; email sally.brown@uq.net.au

Fruit Flies
6th International Symposium on Fruit Flies of Economic Importance, 6 - 10 May 2002. Stellenbosch, South Africa. Further information: Eugene Booysen, Cape AgriTours e-mail: agritour@adept.co.za

A.E.S. PHIL CARNE PRIZE

The Executive takes pleasure in announcing The Australian Entomological Society's Phil Carne Prize. This prize honours contributions made by Dr Phil Carne to the science of entomology and to The Australian Entomological Society, and is intended to foster high-quality entomological research among young scientists
The prize is open to any undergraduate or postgraduate who has submitted a paper to the **Australian Journal of Entomology** and had it accepted for publication within the last year. Entrants may be enrolled full or part-time, and are not required to be members of The Australian Entomological Society. Entries will be reviewed by the normal Journal referring process. The Chief Editor will advise the Executive of the eligible papers and these will be presented to a selection committee appointed and convened by the Vice-President of the Society.
The winner will be invited to present the winning paper at the Society's Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference. The prize will be $300 plus free conference registration, accommodation, return airfare to the Annual Conference and presentation of a scroll.
Manuscripts and other editorial correspondence should be addressed to Dr Peter Allsopp, Chief Editor, Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations, Private Bag 4, Bundaberg DC 4670, Australia.

Judy Grimshaw, Barbara Waterhouse, and Townsville
Supervising Inspector Craig Hemsley at Aropa Airport on Bougainville Island

THE AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC.
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Please return to: Ms Nancy Endersby, AES Secretary, c/o Institute for Horticultural Development, Private Bag 15, Scoresby Business Centre VIC 3176 AUSTRALIA

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2001

32nd AGM & Scientific Conference

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